

Approved Minutes

**Child Support Formula Standing Subcommittee**

May 14, 2002 Meeting  
held at SCAO, Lansing MI

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kent Weichmann, Roland Fancher, Patti Holden, Terry Adams, and Kim Lem

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Hon. Michael Skinner and Ron Papke.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Bartels and Darla Brandon

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:** Kristine Eychas

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kent Weichmann at 1:38 p.m.

**2. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

a. Approval of the March 12, 2002 Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Holden and seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the minutes.

**Motion passed.**

b. Correspondence

Mr. Jerry Sauder provided the subcommittee with more information regarding both parents receiving a dependent housing allowance. The subcommittee decided that no further response is needed.

Mr. Patrick McCarthy discussed a support order entered based on the application of the shared economic formula. Mr. Bartels provided a response to Mr. McCarthy and provided it to the subcommittee. The subcommittee agreed that no further response is needed.

Mr. Murray Davis provided the subcommittee members with a packet to review regarding the Michigan Child Support Guideline Quadrennial Review. The subcommittee agreed to have further correspondence be routed through the SCAO staff to submit to committee members.

c. Public Comment None.

i. **New Form** - Mr. Bartels provided the subcommittee with a new Request for Public Comment form for their review. Mr. Adams suggested italicizing and bolding the “3 minute” limit of public comment.

d. Guideline Review Project

i. **Subcommittee Plans** - This information was outlined in the April 24, 2002 e-mail sent to the committee about the deadlines that need to be met for the 2003 Guideline. The subcommittee needs to be completed with their work in July. This deadline is needed in order to give the results to the Advisory Committee for consideration. Mr. Bartels also passed out the Federal US Code and Regulations, and state statute which are the legal parameters of what is required of the subcommittee. He stressed the importance of completing the necessary work, and if a more complete review is needed than can be done by July, that several priority items be done along with a recommendation to the State Court Administrator that a more fundamental review be considered.

Mr. Adams made a motion that "The subcommittee informs the Advisory committee that they are continuing to examine proposals for changes in the Child Support Formula Manual, and are reforwarding [returning] the recommendations that the subcommittee had previously sent to the Advisory Committee. The subcommittee also informs the Advisory Committee that undertaking a more fundamental examination of the guideline will take a longer term than the three remaining meetings. It is the subcommittee's intent to simultaneously consider information regarding basic model questions, economic data, and the next deviation survey, and to have the review completed for inclusion in the 2005 Manual." **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Weichmann provided a quick overview of income shares model to the subcommittee. When the family separates, support is based on an intact family, and makes no adjustment to the non-custodial parent living in a second household.

Mr. Adams added that the down ward sloping line happens by not considering the data that doesn't make sense to the consumer expenditure data. To do so, one won't count all the expenditures that the family has, for example, principle payments on a mortgage, credit card interest, monthly car payments and other installment interest. The economists are looking at consumption expenditures. If you buy stock or bonds, etc. these things are not really expenditures. Another issue is these percentages are based on expenditures. They take the total family expenditures, and the expenditures on children. If you only looked at total family income as the denominator, you get essentially flat lines for the kids, because total family income amounts to total expenditures as we see it in everyday life are different.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The subcommittee discussed various issues about the income shares model.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Advisory Committee Returned for Consideration in Current Review

i. **Imputation Section Changes** - The Advisory committee returned the rationales provided by the subcommittee for updates and/or revisions.

ii. **Low Income Section Changes/Alimony** - The Advisory Committee is still

reviewing these rationales.

b. Changing Models - see “e”.

c. Economic Estimates - see “e”.

d. Citation and Reorganization of Sections - Mr. Bartels provided a proposal to the subcommittee with an example of changing and editing the guideline manual and trying to get each separate thought into a numbering scheme. He also provided the subcommittee with a different way of breaking out the information into different subject areas and makes the manual more logical.

Mr. Weichmann also suggested putting more of an explanation of how the guideline works and why the numbers have come to be.

e. Prioritization (order) of Sections Under Consideration

The subcommittee will merge changing models and economic estimates under this category. These two items will be dealt with immediately by the committee. Mr. Adams will provide a summary of economic data for the subcommittee at the next meeting.

i. **Recommendations from *Report on the Michigan Child Support Formula*** - table for future meeting.

ii. **Returned from FOCB Advisory** - table for future meeting.

iii. **Shared Economic Responsibility softening the cliff effect** - table for future meeting.

iv. **Different Custody Arrangements for Children in a Family** (effect of using first children in all calculations) - table for future meeting.

v. **Multiple Support Orders Involving the Same Parents** - table for future meeting.

vi. **Etc. - Other Provisions?** The committee is to bring their list of recommendations of items they believe need to be reviewed.

## **5. CLOSING**

a. Next Meeting June 11, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. at the State Court Administrative Office.

b. Adjourn A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All agreed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Brandon

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